



BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB EXPANDS SERVICES TO SILVERADO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 3, 2008

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VICTORVILLE – At a kick-off event this afternoon, Hendon Harris, President of the Boys and Girls Club of the Victor Valley, was joined by San Bernardino County First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt and numerous other local leaders to unveil the club's newest facility located at Silverado High School.

"Today was a major step forward in our efforts to give children the tools they need to succeed in life," stated Hendon Harris. "Supervisor Mitzelfelt's support of the Boys and Girls Club made this expansion possible, and we cannot thank him enough."

In August 2007 Supervisor Mitzelfelt allocated \$650,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of the Victor Valley to allow the organization to expand its services and facilities in the greater Victor Valley.

"The Boys and Girls Club of the Victor Valley has become a leader in the High Desert in giving children the means to make a productive impact in their communities," stated Supervisor Mitzelfelt. "This expansion serves not only as an educational and quality-of-life enhancement for High Desert families, but also as a component of our war on gangs."

The new facility, which is located on the campus of Silverado High School in Victorville, will provide children with after school tutoring, computer training, and social skills education. The expansion is aimed at steering children away from gangs, and focusing them on improving themselves and their local communities.

While touring the new facility, Hendon Harris, Supervisor Mitzelfelt and representatives of Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) and the Victor Valley Union High School District discussed the creation of an aviation mechanic training program for high school students in the district.

Silverado High School currently offers two introductory engineering courses that are part of Project Lead the Way, a nationally-acclaimed program for children considering careers in engineering-related fields. The district is also developing a specialized course in aerospace engineering at Victor Valley High School that could serve as a career ladder into the aviation technician program at SCLA. The aviation technician training program at SCLA, which was made possible by a \$500,000 contribution from Supervisor Mitzelfelt last year, has been widely promoted at local high schools in an effort to interest students in the program.

"What we have here in the Victor Valley Union High School District is a bridge between two programs that are very important to me – the Boys and Girls Club and SCLA's training program," added Mitzelfelt. "These programs are vital to the success of our youth and give them constructive alternatives."

The Boys and Girls Club of the Victor Valley was founded in 2005 and has worked with hundreds of children from throughout the Victor Valley.